

HAMATEUR CHATTER

Published by Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club

©

Vol. 16, No. 8

August, 2008

President's Letter

This abrupt change in format indicates that we are in need of a new editor for our newsletter -- Pancho KA9OFA has served us well for many years (since 1993!), but finds it necessary now to step aside. Sarah KB9ZNC and I put this one together, and can probably continue for a few months if necessary, but it would really be better done by a person or persons dedicated to the task.

Dave KA9XWN provided a great program at our last meeting, and spent the lion's share of his time on the upcoming change in TV. Analog TV broadcasting will essentially cease in February 2009. If you haven't heard about this, you might want to get a copy of the program, or check out <http://www.dtv2009.gov> for details. There will be DVDs of the meeting program (and several older programs) available at the meeting, thanks to Ted WA9RDI.

I am looking forward to our upcoming program as well. Tom K9BTQ will be presenting on Software Defined Radio. Can a computer be a radio? The program will include a live demonstration of the Softrock 40 SDR receiver. Kits for the Softrock Version 5, the successor to the Softrock-40, will run you less than \$30! It seems that SDR will provide a way for hams of average budget capacity to get access to the latest DSP. Time will tell.

As mentioned elsewhere, this club meeting will be a Special meeting, because we need to consider some changes to the bylaws related to the VEC. The VEC managers and the MRAC Board had a meeting earlier this month, and we have a motion to present to the membership.

Hope to see you on the 28th!

73 de AB9FH

July 31, 2008 MRAC Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 PM. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. Brian KC9HEK made a motion to accept the minutes as read, and received a second from Dwain KC9MJJ. The motion passed. Mark AB9CD read the treasurer's report. Charles KC9CEQ moved to accept the minutes as read, and Al KC9IJJ seconded; motion passed.

Our president thanked all those who came to and helped at our Field Day site.

For the benefit of the membership, Mark AB9CD gave a review of all that had occurred between the VEC and the MRAC board of directors, explaining how we came to our current situation; that is, the VEC funds being in a separate account and the consequent formation of the VEC as a separate corporation. The by-laws at present do not allow for this; a proposed change will be made and offered for the membership's vote at the August meeting, which will be declared a special meeting.

Pancho KA9OFA has resigned as both a director on the board and the editor of the newsletter for personal reasons. Anyone wishing to volunteer for or nominate someone for either position should contact a member of the board.

Mark AB9CD has agreed to be our 2009 Field Day chairman. We are currently looking for members for a Field Day committee, and a person to co-chair with the likelihood of being 2010's Field Day chairman. He is also resuming his position of liaison to the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

Pat WW9R advertised that the CW North American QSO Party and the SSB North American QSO Party are coming up. If interested in joining a team for these events, contact him.

Dwain KC9MJJ made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dick W9JBE. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

A Note about 2m Simplex Nets

The club received a long email from Todd KC9BQA on this subject, and I've included some excerpts here. Thanks to a kick start by Sherm KB9Q and the continued outstanding efforts by those who have managed the MRAC FM Simplex Contest, our club is in something of a leadership position locally on this topic.

Todd writes: Hello FM simplex enthusiasts,

My call is KC9BQA. I'm Todd and I live up in EN63, southern Sheboygan county. I've been V/UHF contesting on multiple bands since 2004 and I love it. [He asks if there are any current FM simplex nets] So if I could get some answers to those questions, then I can move forward with my new plan to spend more time on FM simplex. I'm ready to start doing this next week, so your prompt reply will really help.

Shifting gears again, I'm a very active SSB (horizontal polarization) contester on multiple bands. What I'm trying to do today is reach out to the FM side and create more and more activity in Wisconsin. [Many have] contested in the MRAC FM Simplex contest held each February. It's time to also have your signals heard in the ARRL contests. The next one is Sept. 13/14th, and it's typically the biggest one of the year. 33 hours of opportunity, so everyone should be able to make at least some time to get on the air. Here's why I'm so motivated: in the recent August UHF contest, a few guys from the Chicago area ended up with 91 (!) different contacts on FM..nearly as many FM contacts as SSB ones! There's no reason we can't surpass that sort of effort in the SE Wisconsin area. We also are VERY fortunate to have a grid square intersection located right in West Allis, roughly 70th and Lincoln. You can probably see how a group of rover stations would get really busy making a bunch of points in the contest.

I want you to talk this concept up among your ham friends. I want you to tell me you're interested. Or tell me why not. I want to spread this idea wherever appropriate. I will try to answer any questions anyone may have. I'm ready to branch out a little in the hobby. I need your help. I'll do the emailing and the rah-rah stuff, but if you don't get on the air, nothing happens. Will you consider helping? Let me know, we've got a few weeks to get this idea growing.

Thanks very much for your time and 73,

Todd KC9BQA

Special Meeting Announcement

The August 28th meeting of MRAC will be a Special Meeting for the purpose of voting on issues related to the VEC. The following motion will be presented to the membership:

“The MRAC Inc. resolves to establish the MRAC VEC Inc. as an independent VEC. MRAC Inc. will cooperate in all actions required to that end.”

If this motion passes, paragraph XII of the Bylaws will need to be modified, and we need a Special Meeting to make those kind of changes.

Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be August 28th, 2008, at 7:00pm. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N Mayfair Road. Use the south entrance. The program will be “Software Defined Radio” by Tom K9BTQ.

VEC

No testing in August. Next session is September 27th at AES, 5170 W Good Hope Road.

Club Contact Information

Our website address: <http://www.w9rh.org>. Phone number is 414-332-MRAC (6722). Address correspondence to MRAC, PO Box 070695, Milwaukee WI 53207-0695. Email may be sent to w9rh@arrl.net.

M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club
PO Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695